



MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Principals

FROM: Indiana Department of Education, School Health Services

DATE: April 21, 2009

SUBJECT: National School Nurse Day

Since 1972, *National School Nurse Day* has been set aside to recognize school nurses, and since 2003, *National School Nurse Day* has been celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurse Week (May 6th to May 12th). This week *National School Nurse Day* will be celebrated May 6, 2009, and school nurses across the nation will be recognized for the overall impact that they have on the health and well-being of students who are facing more challenging issues than ever before.

“In this 41st Anniversary of our national association, *National School Nurse Day* reinforces the need to share the vital work of school nurses in serving school communities and beyond. The nurse supports the physical, mental, emotional, and social health of students,” said Donna Mazyck, the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) Board President. “*National School Nurse Day* provides an opportunity for school nurses to articulate what they do to remove or minimize health related barriers to student success. We are school nurses; we support student success!”

Schools and communities are encouraged to join with their school nurses in celebrating what they do on a daily basis to keep kids healthy and ready to learn.

A Brief History of School Nursing in the U.S. and Indiana:

- 1902, first school nurse in the U.S. employed
- 1912, first school nurse in Indiana employed
- 1923, first school nurses granted licensure, upon presentation of credentials, from the Indiana Department of Public Instruction, now the Indiana Department of Education
- 1955, law passed mandating employment of registered nurses for emergency care of children during school hours
- 2007, 1073 school nurses delivering comprehensive health care to support academic success to students in Indiana

For questions or information, contact Phyllis Lewis (317) 232-9142.